

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Amended) A method of removing an obstruction from a blood vessel, comprising the steps of:

providing an obstruction removing element which is movable from a collapsed position to an expanded position, the obstruction removing element having a wire which has a distal end coupled to an insertion element, the wire also having a proximal end which is slidable on the insertion element, the obstruction removing element also having a stop coupled to the insertion element at a position proximal to the distal end of the insertion element, the proximal end of the wire contacting the stop when the obstruction removing element is in the expanded position, the stop preventing distal advancement of the proximal end of the wire to prevent expansion of the wire beyond the expanded position;

positioning the obstruction removing element in a catheter with the obstruction removing element in the collapsed position;

advancing the catheter through the obstruction;

moving the obstruction engaging element out of the catheter after the advancing step so that the obstruction removing element moves toward the expanded position; and

engaging the obstruction by moving the obstruction engaging element after the advancing step.

2. Canceled

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the advancing step is carried out with the obstruction removing element wrapped around the insertion element during the advancing step.

Claims 4-116 (Canceled)